



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Contact: Jeanne Brode

916.327.9252

Ron Baker

916.324.3142

REA Program Moving to DTSC

SACRAMENTO --- January 1, 2003, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) assumed responsibility for the Registered Environmental Assessor (REA) Program. Previously managed by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the REA program certifies environmental assessment professionals. The transfer involves no change to the REA Program other than the Department in which it resides. The REA program will be part of the DTSC's Assistant Director's Office.

"We are happy to accept the REA program as its mission is so compatible with the mission of the DTSC," said Ed Lowry, DTSC Director. "We anticipate that the transfer of the REA program will ensure the continued growth of this important registration and practitioner oversight program."

In 1985, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1875, establishing a program to identify environmental professionals who possess sufficient education and experience to provide environmental services to the regulated community and others. The REAs perform environmental site assessment, risk analysis, soil and groundwater sampling and cleanup, air emissions testing, and waste reduction and recycling activities.

The REA program connects small and medium sized businesses with REAs who have the specific areas of expertise to assist them with complying with environmental regulations. The application and registration fees paid by registrants fully fund the REA program's registrant records management, website updates, evaluation of legislation, and public outreach programs.

DTSC anticipates a burgeoning growth in the number of applicants in response to the increasing number of schools and small urban sites that DTSC will evaluate for cleanup activities in the near future.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."